

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 EB-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 OC-05

CCO-00 CAB-02 COME-00 FAA-00 /086 W
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R 151415Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 391

INFO USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USNMR SHAPE

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

SECDEF WASHDC

DIRNSA WASHDC

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IMZIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, PFOR, TU

SUBJ: GOT RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES: SITUATION

REPORT AS OF 1700 HOURS LOCAL AUGUST 15, 1975

REF: A) ANKARA 6144 B) ANKARA 6337 C) ANKARA 6206

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE PROMULGATION OF NEW CUSTOMS

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CIRCULAR (REF C), ARBITRARY ACTION BY SOME LOCAL

CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. GOT IS REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO IMPOSE DUTIES ON CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND THERE ARE PRELIMINARY SIGNS THAT PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES OF U.S. MILITARY MAY BE TAXED. STATUS OF JUSMMAT PERSONNEL HAS BEEN CHALLENGED BY TURKISH GENERAL STAFF REPRESENTATIVE. END SUMMARY

2. CONTENDING THAT THEIR INSTRUCTIONS ARE UNCLEAR, SOME LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICIALS HAVE CONTINUED TO HOLD UP CLEARANCE FOR U.S. MILITARY INCOMING AND OUTGOING SHIPMENTS. DESPITE SEVERAL EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AT ESENBAGA AIRPORT REFUSED TO RELEASE 26 BAGS OF PREVIOUSLY IMPOUNDED APO PACKAGES UNTIL CUSTOMS DIRECTOR GENERAL'S DIRECT ORDER TO DO SO WAS OBTAINED THROUGH EMBASSY INTERVENTION ON AUGUST 14. ISKENDERUN CUSTOMS REFUSED TO CLEAR INBOUND SHIPMENT OF WAR RESERVE MUNITIONS FOR INCIRLIK AIR BASE, WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY TURKISH GENERAL STAFF, UNTIL TURKISH BASE COMMANDER TOOK FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELEASE. ISKENDERUN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES ALSO ARE CONTINUING TO HOLD UP OUTBOUND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS BY INSISTING THAT ALL CONTAINERS PREVIOUSLY CLEARED TO BE OPENED AND CHECKED. ISTANBUL CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES SUSPENDED ALL OPERATIONS PENDING COMPLETION OF LOCAL INTERPRETATION STUDY OF NEW CUSTOMS CIRCULAR.

3. TURKISH GENERAL STAFF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE RECENTLY REFUSED TO ISSUE IDENTITY CARDS AND CERTIFICATES PERMITTING REGISTRY OF PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES TO INCOMING JUSMMAT PERSONNEL. WHEN JUSMMAT OFFICER MADE REPRESENTATION TO TGS LEGAL OFFICE ON THIS MATTER, TURKISH COLONEL STATED THAT SINCE BILATERAL SOFA EXTENSION AGREEMENT NOW INVALID, JUSMMAT PERSONNEL ARE NO LONGER COVERED BY NATO/SOFA AND DUTY CERTIFICATE PROVISIONS OF NATO/SOFA WOULD ALSO NO LONGER APPLY. CHJUSMMAT SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED ISSUE TODAY (AUGUST 15) WITH DEPUTY CHIEF TGS WHO TOOK NOTES OF U.S. POSITION THAT ALL U.S. MILITARY ENJOY SOFA PROTECTION BUT DID NOT COMMENT. U.S. CONCERN HAS ALSO BEEN EXPRESSED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.

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4. ALTHOUGH NEW TUSLOG PERSONNEL ARE BEING GIVEN DOCUMENTATION DENIED JUSMMAT PERSONNEL, TAX OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED TO REGISTER THEIR POV'S. (COMMENT: THIS MAY BE PRELUDE TO IMPOSITION OF VEHICLE TAX FROM WHICH U.S. MILITARY PREVIOUSLY EXEMPTED UNDER TERMS OF 1954 TAX RELIEF AGREEMENT, NOW CONSIDERED INVALID BY GOT.)

5. MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED US THAT GOT WILL IMPOSE DUTIES

ON IMPORTED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR U.S. INSTALLATIONS
PREVIOUSLY EXEMPTED UNDER TAX RELIEF AGREEMENT. TGS
HAS BEEN REFUSING CLEARANCE FOR AIRCRAFT CARRYING SUCH
MATERIALS UNTIL INFORMED OF THEIR PURPOSE AND DESTINATION
(DETAILS REF B).
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Message Attributes

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